

## Claims Listing

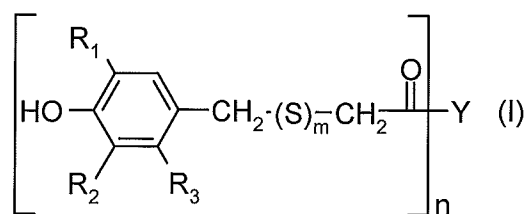
**1. (currently amended)** A method of producing low-dust granules of polymer additives or polymer additive mixtures, wherein the granule-forming polymer additives are mixed together, the mixture is converted into a workable mass and pressed through an orifice, and the pre-shaped strand-like extruded mass is cooled and, while still in a workable state, formed into granules by rolling, impressing, cooling and comminuting,

where the rolling is effected by passing the pre-shaped, still plastic material through two or three squeeze rollers with smooth and polished surfaces and the subsequent impressing is effected by processing the rolled out plastic material with one, two or three linearly embossed shaping rollers,

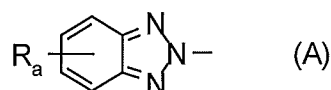
where the material is impressed with a granular structure which provides predetermined breaking points in an impressed product mat and

where the impressed product mat is allowed to harden on a cooling belt followed by comminuting to form granules along the impressed lines.

**2. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein there are mixed together as granule-forming polymer additives phenolic polymer additives of formula (I)



wherein, independently of one another, one of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, a substituent selected from the group C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl, phenyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub>phenyl, phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub>phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub>C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl or a group of partial formula (A)



wherein R<sub>a</sub> is hydrogen or a substituent selected from the group C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, halogen and sulfo;

and the other is a substituent selected from the group C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl, phenyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub>phenyl, phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub>phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub>C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl or a group of partial formula (A) wherein R<sub>a</sub> is as defined;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or methyl;

m is the number zero or 1; and

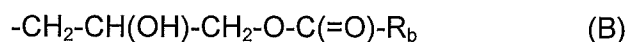
n is an integer from 1 to 4; wherein,

when n is the number 1,

m is zero or 1 and Y denotes

a monovalent substituent -O-Y<sub>1</sub> or -N(-Y<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, wherein

Y<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>45</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>45</sub>alkyl interrupted by at least one oxygen atom, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl, a substituent of partial formula (B)



wherein R<sub>b</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkenyl or benzyl,

a substituent of partial formula (C)



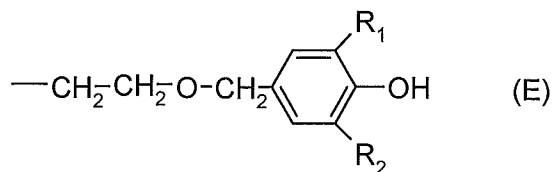
wherein R<sub>c</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>cycloalkyl or phenyl,

a substituent of partial formula (D)



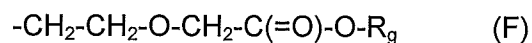
wherein one of R<sub>d</sub> and R<sub>e</sub> is hydrogen or methyl and the other is methyl, and R<sub>f</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>alkyl,

a substituent of partial formula (E)



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as defined above,

or a substituent of partial formula (F)

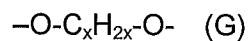


wherein  $\text{R}_g$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl; and

$\text{Y}_2$  is hydroxy- $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_4$ alkyl; or,

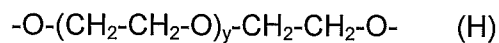
when  $n$  is the number 2,

$m$  is zero and  $\text{Y}$  is a bivalent group of partial formula (G)



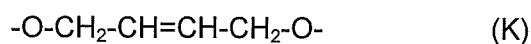
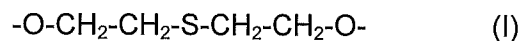
wherein  $x$  is an integer from 2 to 20,

a bivalent group of partial formula (H)



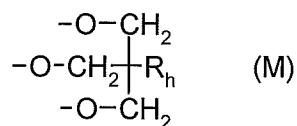
wherein  $y$  is an integer from 1 to 30,

or a bivalent group of partial formula (I), (K) or (L)

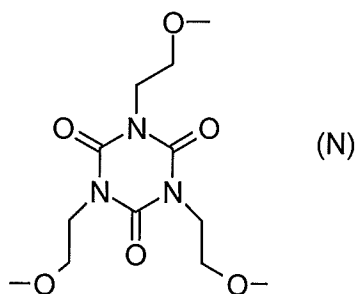


wherein  $z$  is zero or an integer from two to ten; or,

when  $n$  is the number 3,  $m$  is zero and  $\text{Y}$  is a trivalent group of partial formula (M)

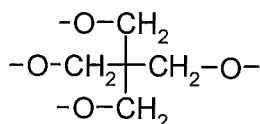


wherein  $\text{R}_h$  is  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl or phenyl, or (N)

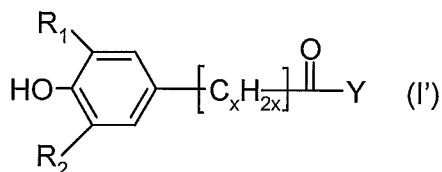


or,

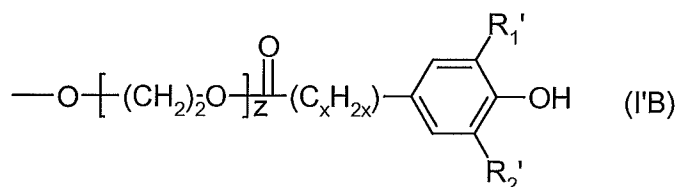
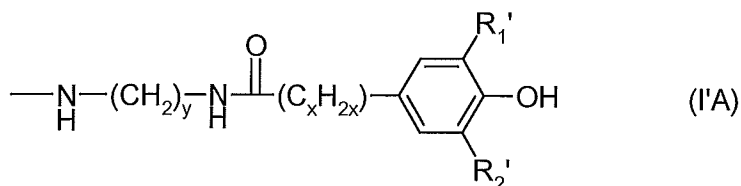
when n is the number 4, m is zero and Y is the tetravalent group of partial formula

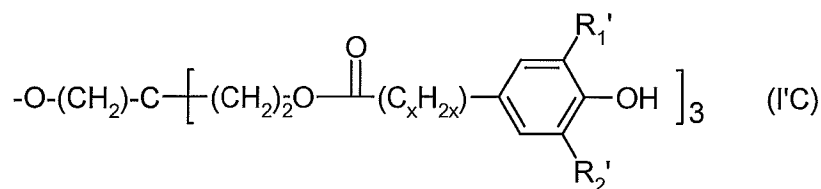


**3. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein there are mixed together as granule-forming polymer additives phenolic polymer additives of formula (I')



wherein, independently of one another, one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl and the other is  $C_3$ - $C_4$ alkyl; x is zero (direct bond) or an integer from one to three; and Y is  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ alkoxy or a group of partial formula (I'A), (I'B) or (I'C)





wherein, independently of one another, one of  $R_1'$  and  $R_2'$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl and the other is  $C_3$ - $C_4$ alkyl; x is zero (direct bond) or an integer from one to three; y is an integer from two to ten and z is an integer from two to six.

**4. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture of granule-forming polymer additives is converted into a workable mass in a heatable co-kneader.

**5. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 4, wherein the workable mass is extruded from the co-kneader through a circular nozzle or slot-shaped nozzle and the pre-shaped, strand-like mass is subjected to further processing.

**6-7. (canceled)**

**8. (original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the transport and the cooling and solidification isare carried out on a continuous steel belt.

**9. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 4, wherein the components of the granule-forming polymer additives are fed into the co-kneader in liquid or solid form or in molten form.

**10. (original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the impressed product mat is comminuted to granule size in a sieve granulator.